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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,715	07/30/2003	Jong Seok Kim	9988.037.00-US	5368

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EXAMINER

STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,715

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/21/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Claims 11-17 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on August 10, 2006.

It should be noted that the traversal is considered to be a moot point in that applicant will be give consideration of the nonelected species upon the allowance of, a generic independent claim as previously noted.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanigawa et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 6,032,494) in view of either Schrage et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 4,000,968), Munz (U. S. Pat. No. 1,805,782) or Miller et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 1,401,176) . Re claims 1 and 18, Tanigawa is cited disclosing a washing water circulation apparatus comprising a circulation motor/pump/hose (95, see fig. 11 for example) and an injection unit (not shown) including a connector (242) penetrating a gasket, that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the injection including a nozzle, with the nozzle being opened in a direction the drum, and being completely opened at the left and right sides. The patents to Schrage, Munz and Miller are each cited that it is old and well known to provide a dispersion nozzle being opened at the front and sides, for dispersion a washing fluid as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary

skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Tanigawa, to include a dispersion nozzle arrangement as taught by either Schrage, Munz or Miller, for the purpose of ensuring for the complete wetting of the article being washed.

4. Claims 2-6, 9 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Germany'583 (Germany 38 11 583).

Claim 2 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the annular for supporting the connector. Germany583 discloses the annular rib as claimed (see fig. 2-6). It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Tanigawa, to include a rib as taught by Germany'853, for the purpose of providing a degree of rigidity to the gasket. Re claim 3, Germany'583 discloses the projection on the connector as claimed (see fig. 2). Re claim 4, to have the body in the form of a single body is deemed to be of little patentable weight in view of the corresponding structure in the applied prior art. Re claims 5, 19, Schrage, Munz and Miller discloses the upper, vertical and lower parts as claimed. Re claims 6-10 and 20-24, Munz discloses the upper and horizontal features as claimed.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Severns et al., Kinealy, Valent, Reed, Stick et al., Fanson, Toma, Brenner et al., Garman, Breckenridge, Germany'079, Kreitchman, Guth, Osterhus et al. and Lohman, note the sprinkling and circulation means.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 1746

(571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls



FRANKIE L. STINSON
Primary Examiner
GROUP ART UNIT 1746